

tion for entropium, and also determined to remove the lost globe, fearing that it might prove a source of irritation to the other. This was accordingly done, and an opportunity thus occurred of examining the state of the organ. The nucleus of the depressed lens was found still existing, and, although dense and shrivelled, was not actually cretaceous. The choroid and retina had been separated by effusion between their layers. Last week, Mr. Bowman extracted the lens from the right eye, and when the eye was opened, a day or two since, the section was found united, with a central clear pupil. The man has been wearing an artificial eye with perfect comfort, from the fifth day after the excision. The readers of our notes will be aware that the operation by depression is one which is now never performed at the Moorfields Hospital. It has been wholly discarded on account of the frequency of such occurrences as the above case illustrates, viz., that the nucleus of the lens is liable at any subsequent period to become a source of irritation and excite inflammation, which will end in amaurosis. Although so much easier of performance, and so tempting on account of its little risk and the speed with which good vision is obtained, it is therefore, in the long run, a much less satisfactory procedure than extraction. We might add that the operation by solution, when the lens is hard, is liable to nearly the same objection. The outer parts of the lens only are really absorbed, and, after a succession of troublesome operations, the nucleus at last drops out of the axis of vision, and a condition of things very similar to that obtained by depression exists, and one which is liable to the same subsequent risks.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, June 27, 1857.

52. *Symblepharon treated successfully by Blandin's Method.*—Mr. R. TAYLOR relates (*British Medical Journal*, June 13, 1857) the case of a lad, 15 years of age, who applied for relief at the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital in August, 1856. "Nearly a year and a half previously he had received a severe injury in the right eye, and a less serious one in the left, from lime, for which injuries he had been treated for some months at a hospital. His state, when I first saw him, was as follows: The right eyeball and lid were united by a dense firm cicatrix, extending nearly the whole length of the palpebral fissure, and upwards over the cornea so as to conceal the pupil, with the exception of a small chink, which was obscured by a faint milky opacity. Every attempt at moving the eye was attended by a most disagreeable feeling of constriction; and the sight was so far impaired that he could not make out the largest print. In the left eye the consequences of the injury were so slight as not to require surgical interference. There were a few loose bands of adhesion at the bottom of the palpebral sinus; and though the lower part of the cornea was obscured by opacity, this did not trench upon the pupil, and vision was unimpaired.

"The operation upon the right eye may be described nearly in M. Blandin's words. The cicatrix was carefully dissected from the cornea and sclerotica in its whole extent, until the eyeball was completely free; and the dissection was continued until the bottom of the palpebral sinus had been reached, and the bony margin of the orbit could be felt with the finger. There was thus left a broad thin flap of cicatrix adhering to the tarsal margin of the eyelid. This was then folded in, in the manner of a hem, so that its smooth surface, which had formerly been external, was now in apposition with the raw surface of the eyeball, and a lining was provided for the eyelid to the very bottom of the palpebral sinus. In this position the flap was retained by two sutures passing through the entire thickness of the lid, and tied externally on the skin of the face.

"The subsequent progress of the case may be thus condensed: One of the sutures was, unfortunately, detached by the efforts of the patient, who did not understand its importance; and I was not informed of the accident until it was too late to replace it. The other was removed on the fifth day after the operation. The outer three-fourths of the flap adhered to its new position, leaving a palpebral sinus of the natural depth. At the inner part there was still a narrow elastic band between the eyelid and the lower and inner part of the cornea; which, however, did not interfere with the free movement of the eye. A subsequent attempt to get rid of this adhesion was unsuccessful. The opacity

which formerly covered the cornea has been removed, partly by operation and partly by absorption, to such an extent that three-fourths of the pupil are now perfectly clear; and the vision is almost, if not altogether, as good with this eye as with the other. So little irritation was produced by the operation, that the lad returned to his work (that of a plasterer) the day after the second suture was removed.

"Although, owing to the unfortunate detachment of one of the sutures, the success of this operation has not been so complete as it might otherwise have been, still the relief afforded in a case which is universally condemned as hopeless has been so striking that I earnestly trust that this very ingenious and simple operation may have a further trial in this country; this, so far as I am aware, having been the only occasion on which it has been performed. Among the labouring and manufacturing population, who are in an especial manner exposed to the accidents by which symblepharon is produced, there must be many who are suffering from all its inconveniences, who would gladly avail themselves of any chance of relief by surgical means, and who might perhaps ere now have been relieved, had this mode of operating been known and attempted. To speak confidently, from the results of two operations (M. Blandin's and my own), would be premature. All I would wish to enforce is, that the method proposed appears to be founded on just and scientific principles; that it is the only one hitherto proposed which is at all likely to be adopted in this country for the relief of a very distressing affection, hitherto considered as irremediable; and, finally, that it has proved successful in the only two instances, so far as I am aware, in which it has been performed."

[Where the adhesion is extensive, and the bands long, this operation may be successfully resorted to; but we have met with cases where the lid and ball were so closely united that no flap could be made. In a case in which there was only one narrow connecting band, we, several years since (1843), divided the band, and united the edges of the cut on the inner surface of the lid by suture, with the most satisfactory result. Mr. Wilde has since performed the same operation, but brought together the edges of the conjunctiva, on the eyeball as well as on the eyelid, by sutures. The former, we are persuaded, is unnecessary.—EDITOR.]

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## MIDWIFERY.

53. *Use of the Speculum*.—Dr. ROBERT LEE read before the Royal Med. and Chirg. Soc. (June 9, 1857) some further observations on the use of the speculum in the diagnosis and treatment of uterine diseases. He referred to the tabular statement of 220 cases of real and imaginary disease of the uterus, published in the 38th volume of the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*, and presented in a similar tabular form the details of eighty additional cases which had since come under his observation. Of the 300 patients, 47 were unmarried; one had barely completed her 18th year, several were under 20, and the majority under 30 years of age, and were suffering from hysteria, leucorrhœa, dysmenorrhœa, or some nervous affection of the uterus, without inflammation, ulceration, or any structural disease or displacement of the organ. In Case 256, the patient had been told that the womb was prolapsed and much ulcerated, and an instrument had been introduced for six weeks, with an aggravation of all the symptoms. The hymen was found so perfect on examination that it was impossible to reach the os uteri without using an unjustifiable degree of violence. On the ground of morality, and on every other ground, he could see no defence for the employment of the speculum in these 47 cases. Of the 300 patients 70 were barren, and the sterility was not removed nor the other symptoms relieved in a single instance. Several of these individuals spoke with horror and shame of the treatment to which they had submitted. A considerable number of the cases were suffering from cancerous disease, in all of which the symptoms seemed to have been aggravated by the treatment. In Case 236